

Listing of the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus for interrogating a field of plasmon resonant entities (PREs) and other light-scattering entities, comprising
an optical light source for illuminating such a field, at each of a plurality of different illuminating light frequencies,
an optical detector for measuring light intensity from individual PREs having a selected signature spectral emission characteristic and from other light-scattering entities in the field, at each of the plurality of different illuminating light frequencies,
an image processor operatively connected to the detector for constructing, from signals received from the detector, values of a spectral emission characteristic of the individual PREs and other light scattering entities in the field, based on the light intensity measured at each of the different illuminating frequencies, and a computer image of the positions and values of the signature spectral emission characteristic of individual PREs and of the other light-scattering entities present in the field, a
discriminator means for discriminating individual PREs with a selected signature spectral characteristic from other light-scattering entities in the computer image, based on a comparison of a selected signature spectral characteristic of PREs and other light-scattering entities in the field determined over said different spectral wavelengths, and
output means for displaying information about the field based on the information about the selected individual PREs.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said light source includes a bright field/dark field lens for directing light onto the field.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said detector is a two-dimensional photodetector array capable of detecting a spectral emission characteristic simultaneously from a plurality of illuminated PREs in an illuminated field.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the optical detector includes a two-dimensional array of optical fibers whose output is aligned so as to constitute a line source that is sent into a grating or prism for responding to that line source, and a two-dimensional detector array for responding to the spread of spectral light of each fiber in said line source of detected light.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 or 23, which further includes means for moving said field in an x-y plane, relative to said light source, to successively illuminate individual light-scattering entities in the field.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said image processor operates to construct an image of PRE positions and, for each light-scattering entity in the field, values of a spectral characteristic selected from the group consisting of peak position, peak intensity, peak width at half intensity of the spectral emission curve, peak halfwidth in the image plane, and polarization or angle of incidence response.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said discriminator means includes means for discriminating PREs with a selected spectral signature from all other light-scattering entities in the field, based on detected values, for each light-scattering entity in the field, of peak position, peak intensity, peak width at

half intensity of the spectral emission curve, peak halfwidth in the image plane, and polarization or angle of incidence response.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said discriminating is effective to discriminate for a selected type of PREs, those selected PREs which are interacting with one another and those which are not, or one selected type of PRE from another selected type of PRE in the field.

30-56. (Canceled)